

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Cancelled claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The wheel assembly as in claim 1~~ A wheel assembly comprising:
a rim having first and second circumferential edges defining a trough portion therebetween;
a plurality of spaced protrusions disposed in the trough portion between the first and second circumferential edges;
a resilient member disposed over the plurality of spaced protrusions;
an actuator disposed over the resilient layer;
wherein the actuator is adapted to at least partially compress the resilient layer between the spaced protrusions when the wheel assembly is loaded with a weight; and
wherein the resilient member comprises an upper surface and a lower surface, the lower surface comprising a plurality of raised ridges, the raised ridges positioned to be in cooperation with the plurality of spaced protrusions.

5. (Original) The wheel assembly as in claim 4 wherein the resilient member upper surface comprises a second plurality of raised ridges in cooperation with the actuator.

6-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The wheel assembly as in claim 10~~ A wheel assembly comprising:

a rim having first and second circumferential edges defining a trough portion therebetween;

a plurality of spaced protrusions disposed in the trough portion between the first and second circumferential edges;

a resilient member disposed over the plurality of spaced protrusions;

an actuator disposed over the resilient layer;

wherein the actuator is adapted to at least partially compress the resilient layer between the spaced protrusions when the wheel assembly is loaded with a weight;

wherein the actuator comprises a generally cylindrical-shaped band, the band having a plurality of spaced apart holes formed therethrough;

wherein the spaced apart holes are positioned to be in cooperation with the plurality of spaced apart protrusions;

wherein the resilient member is adapted to stretch at least part way into at least some of the spaced apart actuator band holes when the wheel assembly is loaded with the weight; and

wherein the resilient member is adapted to recede from the at least some spaced apart actuator band holes when the loaded weight on the wheel assembly is removed.

12-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A wheel assembly comprising:

a rim having first and second circumferential edges defining a trough portion therebetween;

a plurality of spaced protrusions disposed in the trough portion between the first and second circumferential edges;

a resilient member disposed over the plurality of spaced protrusions;

an actuator disposed over the resilient member;

a coupling device for coupling the resilient member to the rim;
wherein the actuator is adapted to at least partially compress the resilient
member between the spaced protrusions when the wheel assembly is loaded with a weight;
and

~~The wheel assembly as in claim 16~~ wherein the coupling device comprises a flexible strip having a plurality of spaced extensions extending therefrom.

18. (Original) The wheel assembly as in claim 17 wherein the plurality of spaced extensions are adapted to be received in a plurality of spaced holes in the rim.

19. (Original) The wheel assembly as in claim 18 wherein the plurality of spaced holes are disposed in the first and second circumferential edges.

20. (Currently Amended) A wheel assembly comprising:
a rim having first and second circumferential edges defining a trough portion
therebetween;
a plurality of spaced protrusions disposed in the trough portion between the
first and second circumferential edges;
a resilient member disposed over the plurality of spaced protrusions;
an actuator disposed over the resilient member;
a coupling device for coupling the resilient member to the rim;
wherein the actuator is adapted to at least partially compress the resilient
member between the spaced protrusions when the wheel assembly is loaded with a weight;

~~The wheel assembly as in claim 16~~ wherein the coupling device comprises a first flexible strip for coupling a first edge portion of the resilient member to the first circumferential edge, and a second flexible strip for coupling a second edge portion of the resilient member to the second circumferential edge.

21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A wheel assembly comprising:
a rim having a plurality of spaced protrusions adjustably coupled thereto;
a resilient member disposed over the plurality of spaced protrusions;
a means for coupling the resilient member to the rim;
an actuator disposed over the resilient member;
wherein the plurality of spaced protrusions are disposed between first and
second outer edges of the rim, the resilient member coupled to the first and second outer
rim edges;
wherein the actuator is adapted to at least partially compress the resilient
member between at least some of the spaced protrusions;
~~The wheel assembly as in claim 22~~ wherein the means for coupling comprises a flexible strip having extensions disposed through cooperating holes in the resilient member and the rim.

25. (Currently Amended) A wheel assembly comprising:
a rim having a plurality of spaced protrusions adjustably coupled thereto;
a resilient member disposed over the plurality of spaced protrusions;
a means for coupling the resilient member to the rim;
an actuator disposed over the resilient member;
wherein the plurality of spaced protrusions are disposed between first and
second outer edges of the rim, the resilient member coupled to the first and second outer
rim edges;
wherein the actuator is adapted to at least partially compress the resilient
member between at least some of the spaced protrusions
~~The wheel assembly as in claim 22~~ wherein the means for coupling comprises a stitching.

26. (Currently Amended) A wheel assembly comprising:
a rim having a plurality of spaced protrusions adjustably coupled thereto;
a resilient member disposed over the plurality of spaced protrusions;
a means for coupling the resilient member to the rim;
an actuator disposed over the resilient member;
wherein the plurality of spaced protrusions are disposed between first and
second outer edges of the rim, the resilient member coupled to the first and second outer
rim edges;
wherein the actuator is adapted to at least partially compress the resilient
member between at least some of the spaced protrusions

~~The wheel assembly as in claim 22~~ wherein the means for coupling comprises an adhesive.

27. (Cancelled)